



St. Luke the Evangelist Catholic Parish Blackburn South

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Minutes of PPC meeting held on November 18th 2021 at 7pm in the School Discovery Centre

Present: Dean Stone, Sonya O'Farrell, Nigel Tauro, Hock Hin Yeoh, Peng Sim Eng, Melina Barcellona, Lynda Kilroe-Smith, Mary Ryan and Lorraine McCarthy.

Apologies: Fr Gerard, Liz Sullivan, Toni Wynne, Dale Dixon, John Rhynehart

1 – **Prayer** – Led by Mary – Together We Pray – Session One from the melbournecatholic.org website.

2. – **Taking the Way of the Gospel – Mary Ryan with Lorraine McCarthy**

Mary stated that we're doing well so far here at St Luke's in terms of our discernment process and subsequent Pastoral Plan. The International / National / Diocesan / Parish Pastoral Plan i.e. Synod / Plenary Council / Take the Way of the Gospel are all aligned. Parishes have been invited to respond to the Synod. We have done a lot of the groundwork and are well placed to move forward.

Feedback was provided that the Archbishop's Pentecost letter was very high brow and not people oriented. Members of the PPC had trouble understanding the language.

The three focuses in this process (TTWOTG) are:

1 - Effectiveness in sharing the Gospel

2 - Vibrancy, vitality and viability

3 – Equitable sharing of resources

Our Pastoral Plans aligns with no. 2 above.

The reality is our Church community is diminishing – how do we plan ahead?

The "Great Commission" Mat 28:18-20 is our mission. How do we do this? What qualities do we need?

Compassion, joy, charity-focused, respectful, courageous enough to move out of our comfort zone, obedient, cheerful, servant leaders, good role models with a desire to keep learning.

What is a Mission?

A good way of describing it is like a blended family who decide to live and work together. May not be easy initially but worthwhile.

Plan is NOT to close parishes, NOT to destroy local communities, NOT a plan to take over assets and finances.

Young people are not attracted to our church – needs reorganisation.

More than a restructure, we need to change the way we do things. Get the love of God ingrained in the youth. Be people who find ways to bring other people to Jesus.

We need to actively share our faith with others and be vocal about it – this is NOT what we are used to! Pope Francis talks about co-responsibility, reliance on prayer and the Holy Spirit.

We have 2-3 years to find a fit with other parishes.

Our Church is in crisis. We are still living with the shadow of the abuse in the past.

Mary recommended the Divine Renovation book from a Maintenance to a Missional by Fr James Mallon.

Mary and Lorraine were thanked for coming to our parish and facilitating our discussion. They thanked us for our honest feedback and opinions.

3. – **Any Other Business** – As discussion continued until 9pm there was no time for any other matters. Sonya proposed to send an email with points to note.

Meeting closed at 9pm.